

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

September 9, 2024

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 9th day of September 2024, at 6 p.m., at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda providing the date, time, and place of the meeting was emailed to the local newspapers, persons requesting notification and posted on the county's website and the bulletin board in the lobby of the Darlington County Government Building located at 1 Public Square in Darlington.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 24-13, Ordinance No. 24-14, and Ordinance No. 24-15 was published in The Hartsville Messenger and News and Press on August 14, 2024.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice-Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Michael Kirk Askins, Mr. Albert Davis, III., Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. David Coker.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, County Attorney James H. Lucas, Clerk to Council J. Janet Bishop, Central Communications Director Michelle Hall, Codes Enforcement Director Terri Cribb, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, EMS Director Kenny Bowen, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire District Chief Ricky Flowers, Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Sheriff James Hudson, Mr. Brady Hill, Ms. Jannie Harriot, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

News & Press and WBTW/SCNow.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 24-13, An Ordinance To (I) Amend The Existing Joint County Industrial And Business Park Agreement Effective As Of November 17, 1997, As Amended, Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Marlboro County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Joint County Industrial And Business Park So As To Include Additional Property In That Portion Of The Joint County Industrial And Business Park Geographically Located In Darlington County,

South Carolina; (II) Amend The Existing Fee Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Nucor Corporation Effective As Of July 1, 2019 To Include Additional Real Property And Extend The Investment Period; And (III) Other Matters Relating Thereto -THIRD READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open at 6 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-13. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 24-14, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II. (County Council), Section 2-31 (Compensation Of Council Members And Officers), To Increase The Compensation Of Council Members And Officers And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - THIRD READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-14. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 24-15, Authorizing An Amendment To The Agreement Governing The Joint County Industrial And Business Park By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Marlboro County, South Carolina, In Order To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Property Located In Marlboro County And Other Matters Related Thereto (First Industrial) - THIRD READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-15. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Brady Hill reported that EMS services in Society Hill area are non-existent, and he does not disagree with the county for not funding the town's volunteer rescue squad since they were not making calls. It was his understanding that if there is a call from Society Hill area at night, an ambulance would have to travel from Highway 151 and/or Center Road area which could take up to twenty minutes. Mr. Hill asked Council to look at providing EMS services in Society Hill area since the county is supposed to be the main provider of EMS services. He also mentioned that a lot of people in Society Hill do not like the airport location.

Personal Appearances - Ms. Jannie Harriot - The Proposed Darlington County African American Museum

Ms. Jannie Harriot wanted to make County Council aware of an effort in Darlington County to establish an African American Museum in the City of Darlington. A non-profit had been formed and had been working for over a year to fund the project at 131-133 Pearl Street in Darlington. She reported that the organization has been working with the City of Darlington and an architect to rehab the building, which will improve the downtown area because the property had been

sitting and looking bad for a number of years. Each Council member received a packet of information containing the names of the individuals serving on the Board of Directors of the non-profit 501c3 organization which Ms. Harriott serves as Executive Director; pictures of the existing building; a rendering of the exterior of the proposed building; and a schedule of activities (design work, construction documents, bidding, contract negotiation, stabilization construction, etc.). Ms. Harriott indicated that by June 2025, at least 3,000 feet of the building will be completed with green space in the back. Then they will look at what more they can do if there is additional funding. She also announced that there will be a historic preservation meeting at Butler Heritage on November 7, 2024. The meeting flyer was also included in the packet of information.

Ms. Thomas asked about the organization's board members. Ms. Harriott identified those board members from Darlington. She also explained that the Board of Directors only meets when there is a need. The non-profit was formed last year in November to determine what to do. The board hired an architect from Columbia who has begun to work. Currently, the Board has not had a reason to meet on a regular basis. However, when they do meet, a public announcement will be published.

Ms. Harriott also mentioned that she has 30+ years of experience involving historic preservation. She is the founder of Butler Heritage Foundation; was appointed by former South Carolina Governor Carroll Campbell to work with South Carolina African American Heritage Commission; and currently spearheads a renovation/restoration project in Orangeburg (the South Carolina Civil Rights Museum).

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 6.A. Darlington County Transportation Committee (CTC) Meeting Minutes (April 2024), Statements (May 2024), & Agenda (July 2024)
- 6.B. Darlington County Transportation Committee (CTC) Meeting Minutes (July 2024), Statements (June 2024), & Agenda (August 2024)
- 6.C. Beaver Management Program Report, July 2024
- 6.D. Darlington County Historical Commission & Museum Board Member Packet with Visitor Stats & Board Minutes, August 1, 2024
- 6.E. Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments COGNITIVE Connections, August 2024
- 6.G. Darlington County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Activities, September 2024
- 6.H. Airport Commission Meeting Minutes, April 18, 2024
- 6.I. Darlington County Humane Society Minutes Of Meetings Held On June 5, 2024, July 15, 2024, & July 25, 2024
- 6.J. Financial Update through June 2024
- 6.K. SCAC Fall Advocacy Meeting & Institute Of Government, October 16-17, 2024
- 6.L. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, August 2024
- 6.M. Fire District Call Volume Report, August 2024

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to accept the Consent Agenda items as information.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Regular Meeting, August 5, 2024

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 5, 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 24-13, An Ordinance To (I) Amend The Existing Joint County Industrial And Business Park Agreement Effective As Of November 17, 1997, As Amended, Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Marlboro County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Joint County Industrial And Business Park So As To Include Additional Property In That Portion Of The Joint County Industrial And Business Park Geographically Located In Darlington County, South Carolina; (II) Amend The Existing Fee Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Nucor Corporation Effective As Of July 1, 2019 To Include Additional Real Property And Extend The Investment Period; And (III) Other Matters Relating Thereto -THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 24-13. Mrs. Godbold announced that she would recuse herself from discussing/voting on the matter.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold recusing herself.

Ordinance No. 24-14, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II. (County Council), Section 2-31 (Compensation Of Council Members And Officers), To Increase The Compensation Of Council Members And Officers And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 24-14.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold and Mr. Askins opposing.

Ordinance No. 24 -15, Authorizing An Amendment To The Agreement Governing The Joint County Industrial And Business Park By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Marlboro County, South Carolina, In Order To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Property Located In Marlboro County And Other Matters Related Thereto (First Industrial) - THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 24-15.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 24-16, An Ordinance To Authorize And Approve An Agreement For The Development Of A Multi-County Park Agreement By And Between Florence County And Darlington County, Such Multi-County Park To Be Geographically Located In Florence County And Darlington County And Established Pursuant To Section 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended; Authorizing The Inclusion Of Certain Property Located In Florence County In The Multi-County Park; And Other Matters Related Thereto - FIRST READING

The title of Ordinance No. 24-16 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 24- 17, An Ordinance Authorizing Pursuant To Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And A Project Known To The County As Project Rob, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates To Provide For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive And Certain Special Source Revenue Credits For The Benefit Of A Project In The County; And Other Related Matters - FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 24-17 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 24-18, An Ordinance Authorizing The Enlargement Of The Joint County Industrial Park Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina: And Other Matters Related Thereto (Project Rob) - FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 24-18 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 24-19, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 6 (Animals), Article II. (Animal Control) To Add A Section Governing The Tethering Of Pets, And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - FIRST READING

The title of Ordinance No. 24-19 was read for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 784, A Resolution Authorizing Submission Of An Application By Darlington County To The Division Of Community Grant Programs Of The South Carolina Department Of Commerce

MOTION made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve Resolution No. 784. The resolution was read in its entirety.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 785, Proclamation Recognizing Darlington County 911 Telecommunicators As First Responders

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Resolution No. 785. The resolution was read in its entirety.

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees

Parks & Recreation Commission. Mrs. Godbold requested the appointment of Mr. Alex Blackmon to replace Mr. Irone Lee Richardson on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Blackmon will fill the unexpired term through June 30, 2027.

Economic Development Partnership Board. Ms. Thomas stated that since County Council has an additional appointment on the Economic Development Partnership Board, she had a person in mind from Society Hill but had not yet contacted the person.

Mr. Stewart clarified that County Council does not actually have a vacancy on the Economic Development Partnership Board. He explained that with the change to the ordinance, there are five appointments from County Council and five appointments, including two top executives, from Darlington Progress. Currently, Darlington Progress has six people on its list and was talking about recommending one of them to County Council to accept as County Council's appointee. Therefore, one of the members who is currently listed under Darlington Progress needs to be accepted as County Council's appointee since they are already on the Economic Development Partnership Board. Mr. Stewart also stated that if County Council wanted to, Council could move one of the current Darlington Progress members (Mr. Curry Dawkins, Mr. James Ivey, Jr., Ms. Brianna Douglas, or Mr. Danny Hogge, Jr.) into Council's slot tonight. With the change to the ordinance, County Council and Darlington Progress should appoint five members each. Of the five members appointed by Darlington Progress, two are top executives (Mr. Tim Huntley and Mr. Jason Freidenberger) which Mr. Stewart recommended against changing.

Ms. Thomas stated that she would wait until later.

Request To Purchase Swagit Video Streaming For Council Chambers

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of the Swagit Video Streaming Service (Interlocal Purchasing System Cooperative Purchasing Group) for Council Chambers at a total cost of \$110,912.62 using Loss Revenue ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. This cost includes installation, hosting, and subscriptions for the first three years.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase Twenty-Four (24) Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), Fire District

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of twenty-four Automatic External Defibrillators through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing (Stryker) at a cost of \$68,900.16.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase A New 3,000 Gallon Jet Refueler, County Airport

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a new 3,000-gallon Jet Refueler from Skymark Refuelers (GSA Cooperative Purchasing) at a cost of \$254,300 using Airport funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase Forty-Three (43) Access Control-Center Pass-Through Anti-Splash Units, Corrections/Detention Center

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of forty-three Access Control-Center Pass-Through Anti-Splash units from Millennium Access Control Technology, Inc. (sole source purchasing) at a cost of \$108,190 from the General Fund.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase A 2025 Peterbilt 567 Truck, Roads And Bridges

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a 2025 Peterbilt 567 truck from the Larson Group of Florence (Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing)

at a cost of \$166,455 using Roads and Bridges Fund Balance. This purchase will replace a 2008 Freightliner.

Ms. Thomas wanted to know what was used to determine that that equipment needed to be replaced. Mr. Stewart explained that equipment replacement is based on age, required maintenance, problems, etc. Although he did not have the maintenance records for this equipment at the meeting, Mr. Stewart mentioned that Roads and Bridges and the Maintenance Shop staff had determined that this truck was at the end of its life based on age, repair costs, problems, etc.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase A Hitachi Excavator, Roads And Bridges

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a Hitachi Excavator from Hills Machinery Company for \$249,472 using Loss Revenue ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. This purchase will replace an excavator nearing its end of life.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase A Rosco Broom From Ascendum Machinery, Roads And Bridges

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a Rosco Broom from Ascendum Machinery (Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing) at a cost of \$93,230.10 using Loss Revenue ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase Stryker Medical Equipment, EMS

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of Stryker Medical Equipment and preventative maintenance/repair program for the next six (6) years at a cost of \$1,897,468.67 using Loss Revenue ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

SC Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (ASPP), EMS

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve entering into the Public Consulting Group Emergency Services Agreement for South Carolina Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (ASPP) to access additional federal funds available through this initiative to increase EMS's Medicaid reimbursements for ambulance services.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update – Mr. Stewart, County Administrator

SCDOT Public Information Drop-In Meeting. Council members were given information about South Carolina Department of Transportation public information meeting on September 19, 2024, at West Hartsville Baptist Church regarding a proposed roundabout at the intersection of 14th Street and Washington Street in Hartsville. The County's Roads and Bridges Director will attend this meeting.

Society Hill EMS Services. Mr. Stewart reported that the staff has been and will continue to look at/work on turning the 12-hour-a-day unit at the county airport into a 24-hour unit. However, some things have to be worked through with the FAA (Federal Aviation

Administration) and there must be a place for the staff to sleep. He also pointed out that the county could not just add bedrooms to the terminal building. Mr. Stewart talked about the airport unit being the best location for that region of the county. He asked Council to let him know if Council would like to see something different. Otherwise, the staff would continue working to prepare this site which could take several months and additional months to get the septic tank/sewer system installed.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Thomas asked about the status of getting a sign in front of the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Stewart responded that the staff had not worked on this matter recently. The initial bid prices were high. However, the staff could look at this again. The sign would not just represent the Sheriff's Office but all the facilities on site.

Ms. Thomas reported that she has a special interest in housing for seniors in Darlington County and the City of Darlington and will continue her research regarding this matter. She also asked whether all the offices on the second floor of the Mazingo Building were being used. She knew DSS (South Carolina Department of Social Services) was using office space on the first floor. Mr. Stewart stated that as far as he knew, DSS was utilizing all the space assigned to that agency.

Mrs. Godbold asked whether a modular unit could be installed for EMS to service Society Hill area so the residents would not have to wait for the unit to be installed at the county airport. Mr. Stewart responded that the staff was looking for a modular unit and shed. However, the county has to work with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) to place a unit at the county airport which, strategically, would be the best location to serve more than just the Town of Society Hill. Although Society Hill Rescue Squad was within the Town of Society Hill, the county serves the entire county area. He also mentioned that the county will probably have to pay extra for an engineer to design the septic system due to DHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) being backed up. However, the county must first work with the FAA before doing anything on the airport property.

Mrs. Godbold asked whether there was an alternate location where a modular unit could be placed in the meantime so that residents would have some coverage. Mr. Stewart indicated that he would do whatever Council wants. He noted that there had been no change in county services or ambulance response by the rescue squad in five years. Therefore, if Council wants something done as soon as possible, the staff will do it. Otherwise, the staff will be working to make the airport station a 24-hour station instead of a 12-hour station. Mr. Stewart also mentioned that the staff had looked at the feasibility of using Dovesville Fire Station but that would require an addition being built onto the current facility.

Mrs. Godbold asked for an update on the digital/electronic sign on the Square. Mr. Stewart responded that he would have to find out the status from the City of Darlington. The City of Darlington approved the execution of this project at its last meeting and the county will partner with them. The City will do everything, and the county will provide one-half of the cost.

Mrs. Godbold requested an update on the grant for the City of Darlington that the county provided matching funds for. Mr. Stewart responded that he would have to find out information from Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments. This was the City's grant, and the county only provided the matching funds.

Ms. Thomas stated that she did not realize that she was on Pee Dee Council of Government's Development Board until she received a letter. However, she knew that she was on their regular board.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the staff for their work. He also mentioned that progress was being made regarding the animal shelter.

Vote For Executive Session

There was not a vote for executive session.

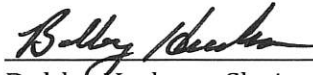
Adjournment

MOTION made by Chairman Hudson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting on October 7, 2024.